

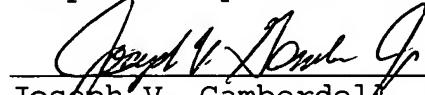
IV. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-11 remain in the application.
2. The specification has been amended to add a claim of priority.
3. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to comply with MPEP 608.01(b).
4. Claims 1-7 have been amended to remove the phrase "the steps of" and to correct a typographical error.
5. The amendments to the claims are not limiting, are not made for reasons related to patentability, and do not raise issues of estoppel.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims present in the application are clearly novel and patentable, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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28 June 2004  
Date

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